1. Van Guard

**Afe Babalola in Oxford: Proffers solutions to education problems in Africa (Africa)**

In his Book titled “A Paradise for Maggots: The story of a Nigerian Anti-graft Czar”, Wale Adebanwi, a Rhodes Professor of Race Relations and Director, African Studies Centre in Oxford University, painted a lucid but agonizing picture of how corruption has robbed Nigeria of its best in virtually all facets of human endeavor. Likewise, legal juggernaut and Founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), Aare Afe Babalola, SAN, on Tuesday, May 1, recalled how the quantum and quality of education in the colonial era up to 1966 when the Military made an incursion into governance in Nigeria, was a lot better than what it is today. In his usual brutally frank, firm, fair but friendly persona, the frontline legal icon and Educationist painted a picture of how a combination of lack of true federalism among the States created at the 1884 Berlin Conference having regard to Amalgamation of many incompatible tribes, failure of successive African Governments to invest adequately in education, failure of African Governments to sensitize their citizens that no government alone can fund quality and functional education and poor leadership as well as over bloated population have over several decades rendered the search for sustainable education in post-colonial Africa illusory and utopian. Speaking during a Lecture titled “The Search for Sustainable Education in Post-colonial era in African States” in Oxford University, United Kingdom, Babalola recalled how in terms of quality, composition and structure, the educational institutions established during the Colonial era in many parts of Africa enjoyed the three essential trappings of being autonomous, collegial and self-governing as they were meticulously planned and patterned after elite UK universities. Unfortunately, the elite classical model of university education in such model institutions like the Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone (established in 1877), Achimota College in Gold Coast and Yaba Higher College (both established in 1934), and Liberia College in Monrovia (1833) and the University College, Ibadan, Nigeria among several others, started dwindling at an escalated rate with the takeover of government by military dictatorships in many parts of Africa with the attendant insufficient funding of education and overconcentration of political and financial power at the centre in most African States. Click this [Link](#) for more details

2. University World News

**Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 (CESA), not SDG4 – A guide for the continent’s aspirations (Africa).**

In a number of my articles and at different events, I have highlighted what I regard as the tenuous stance on higher education taken by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), even though my critiques have been tempered by the fact that the SDGs are more favourable to higher education than the erstwhile Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this article I analyse SDG4, which deliberates on education, and contrast it with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025 (CESA) which unequivocally places higher education at the centre of the continent’s development. The article was triggered by a recent dialogue at the Pan-African Conference on Education in Nairobi organised by UNESCO, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Kenyan government. The architects of SDG4 and CESA – UNESCO and the AUC – are currently gearing up to cooperate closely in implementing the goals. Following a UNESCO presentation which listed “SDG4 Education 2030 Steering Committee
members”, I raised the question of why universities – which are declared key to development – were missing from the list. The response was that “higher education is included in lifelong learning”.

Click this Link for more details

3. **University World News**

**Quality assurance – Guidelines for the ‘quiet revolution’ (Africa)**

African universities have been urged to adopt and implement the newly-developed African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ASG-QA) as part of a pan-continental move to improve higher education quality. Speaking to University World News on the sidelines of last month’s HAQAA (Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation) Initiative workshop held in Cairo, Egypt, Violet Makuku, quality assurance specialist and the HAQAA Initiative project officer at the Ghana-based Association of African Universities, said: “I want the African higher education community to know that all key areas are being harmonised at continental level including transport and trade, passports, visas, etc. So this is not peculiar to higher education ... We need to move at a fast but sure pace.” “I'm urging all African universities to take the ASG-QA on board and implement them in order to improve the quality of African higher education,” Makuku said.

Last month’s workshop, hosted by the Egyptian National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education (NAQAAE), aimed to discuss challenges and opportunities presented by the standards and guidelines. The latest version of the standards and guidelines are the product of a technical working group of experts from five African regions.

Click this Link for more details

4. **Daily Nation**

**Commission for University Education (CUE)’s new proposal major blow to non-chartered varsities (Kenya)**

More than 13 private universities with letters of interim authority have suffered a major blow after the Commission for University Education (CUE) recommended that they should not be given government sponsored students. In their proposal to Education Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed, CUE says only chartered universities should be allocated government sponsored students as per the legal provisions. This means that some of these universities are likely to shut down since a majority of students in those institutions are sponsored by the government under a programme introduced two years ago. Also some of the institutions attracted less than 100 students in last month’s placement that was conducted by Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service. There are 73 universities in Kenya categorised as follows: 31 public chartered universities; six constituent colleges; 18 private chartered universities; five private constituent colleges and 13 institutions with letters of interim authority.

Click this Link for more details
5. University World News

Lecturer probed over alleged defamation of top clerics (Egypt)

An Egyptian state-run university this week suspended a lecturer before instituting an internal inquiry into comments he wrote in a book which allegedly insult prominent Muslim clerics. President of the Damanhour University in Egypt's Nile Delta, Obeid Saleh, ordered the inquiry into the writings of Ahmed Rashwan, a history lecturer at the institution’s Teachers' School, who allegedly branded influential clerics Metwaly el-Sharawy and Amr Khaled as charlatans. Both clergymen have a wide following in predominantly Muslim Egypt. “The university will not be a forum for political or ideological conflicts,” said Saleh. “We respect Sheikh el-Sharawy, being one of the most prominent symbols of Islam in Egypt and the Arab world,” Saleh added in a press statement. El-Sharawy, who died in 1998, was an ex-minister of religious affairs. He built a wide fame through mosque sermons also aired on Egyptian state television. Egyptian media reported that in his book Studies in Modern Arab History Rashwan accuses the government of the now-toppled president Hosni Mubarak of promoting “religious mania” and political Islamism at the hands of theologians including el-Sharawy and Khaled. Mubarak, who ruled Egypt for nearly 30 years, was deposed in a 2011 popular uprising.

Click this Link for more details

6. IOL

Bid to end exclusion of private institutions (South Africa)

THE Independent Institute of Education, South Africa’s largest registered and accredited private provider of higher education wants students from its institutions to receive the same sporting opportunities as their counterparts at public institutions. It turned to the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, arguing that as things stood, students from private higher education institutions were excluded from participating in premier sporting events. According to the institute, they could thus not attract major sponsorship for the events which they were entitled to enter. The organisation argued that the exclusion was unfair discrimination and negatively affected the dignity of those students who were excluded. They lost out on opportunities and advantages available to their counterparts in public higher education institutions. Varsity College, the educational brand of the institute, has been operating for about 20 years and has eight campuses throughout the country. About 14000 students attend its colleges. Advocate Andrea Gabriel SC, told the court, which in this instance sat as the Equality Court, that the application was to secure equal participation and opportunities for students in certain national “premier” sporting competitions. Several bodies were cited as respondents, but Gabriel said they were seeking an order mainly against University Sport South Africa - the body recognised by government and responsible for all higher education sport.

Click this Link for more details

7. Xin Huanet

Kenya injects funds to promote tertiary education in 2018 (Kenya)

Kenya plans to set aside some 134 million U.S. dollars to promote access to tertiary education in 2018, a senior government official said on Thursday. Amina Mohamed, the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Education, told a media briefing in Nairobi that the funds will be used to subsidize fees for approximately 294,000 university and vocational training students. "The funds are meant to assist those who would ordinarily not afford higher education so as to increase the skills levels in the
country," Mohamed said. "The student soft loans help to advance the national agenda of ensuring no Kenyan misses out on education for want of financing," she said during the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) Employer Engagement Forum. HELB draws its funding from the Government's exchequer as well as loan repayments from past beneficiaries. Mohamed noted that 45 million dollars is expected to be recovered from beneficiaries in 2018, up from 40 million dollars in the previous year. The student loans will be provided via the state-owned HELB that acts as a revolving fund to finance higher education. She noted that the government has also partnered with the private sector to support 20,000 students at a cost of eight million dollars. "These external resources have helped in bridging the gap arising from insufficient funding from the National Treasury," he said.

In 2017, the government sponsored 225,000 students to undertake various higher education courses at a cost of 100 million dollars. According to the ministry of education, since 1974, 396,680 loan accounts worth 475 million dollars have matured for repayment; while 264,000 loanees holding 245 million dollars have not matured.

Click this Link for more detail

8. Daily Monitor
Government opens University College in Karamoja (Uganda)
Government has established a constituent college for Agriculture in Moroto District in the move to improve food security in Karamoja Sub-region. The college under Gulu University is scheduled to start lectures soon. According to Dr Sidonia Angom, the college task force chairperson for Moroto District, the college has been established as a directive from President Museveni and is aimed at enabling students from Karamoja to access to higher education at a lower cost. This is the first constituent college in Karamoja. “This is a government constituent college. It is not private and it was directed by President Museveni,” Dr Sidonia said. The Gulu University Vice Chancellor, Prof George Openjuru, during a task force meeting with Karamoja regional leaders on Thursday in Moroto, said the university will change the negative perceptions most people in Uganda have against the sub-region. “There has been a lot of funny talk all over the country and across the continent about Karamoja, we believe this constituent college will polish all the negative talk since it will admit students from various parts of East Africa,” he said.

Click this Link for more details

9. Mail and Guardian
Open University gates to the commons (South Africa)
Fearing the loss of an academic year, students at Walter Sisulu University (WSU) returned to their studies earlier this month after extended protests over the deplorable conditions in the institution’s residences. The angry demonstrations in which students clashed with armed police came after Democratic Alliance national education spokesperson Belinda Bozzoli slammed the university and its managers. She said WSU was “on its last legs”, describing it as a “train smash” riddled with corruption and led by a “punch-drunk” management overseeing falling academic standards and a “dirty, unkempt and unsafe” campus. She further characterised the students as, at times, murderous, and noted that WSU was sited in “the second-most violent area in the world”. By contrast, the former deputy vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand presented the University of Pretoria (UP) as “gorgeous” and “vibrant”, a well-managed, socially diverse and internationally competitive,
underfunded, institution — a “jewel” in South Africa’s higher education crown. Her general argument seemed to be that the government should not forsake institutions such as UP in its efforts to promote a one-size-fits-all model across the sector. Bozzoli’s argument was greeted with anger by senior managers at WSU, who are fully aware of the atrocious conditions in which many of their students live and sought to address her concerns during her visit as part of their continuing deep commitment to trying to improve the situation at the university.

Click this Link for more details

10. Daily Monitor

**Government should increase funding to higher institutions of learning (Uganda)**

The three-day National Council for Higher Education 10th Exhibition held at Lugogo March attracted reputable universities and other tertiary institutions of higher education. We should commend the NCHE for the excellent arrangement. Our parents and other stakeholders witnessed for themselves what our youth and their mentors do in the world of academics and how new ideas can be developed and operationalised into tangible products. Interesting to note was how institutions are grappling with their meager resources to display bankable projects, which can effectively be used to increase the productivity of the country’s economy. Notable were projects in the field of agriculture exhibited by students offering Bsc. Biosystems Engineering from Gulu University. The two projects were an animal-powered seed furrow opener and planter, and manual water hand-pump for irrigation purposes. These are all viable projects that can be promoted to benefit not only local farmers, but also the entire households. The manual water hand-pump is an improvement of the drip irrigation system that President Museveni promoted in his demonstration farm in Luweero. It is also worth commending government for the approval of this Gulu University to lay emphasis on agriculture. The vast piece of land in Acholi sub-region confirms the assertion that Uganda is and can be a food basket for Africa. Now that our young men and women in this great institution have come out with innovative ideas, government support should be increased so that they are able to roll out their knowledge through outreach programmes and demonstrations to farmers to increase agricultural productivity.

Click this Link for more details

11. Mail and Guardian

**Why students reject whiteness (South Africa)**

During the colonial and apartheid years, education in South Africa was used to subjugate the black majority and propagate Eurocentrism and white supremacy. More than two decades after the end of apartheid, education at South African universities remains largely Eurocentric. While the universities have been deracialised and opened up to all who qualify for and can afford university education, the historically white universities remain institutionally white spaces for black students, staff and academics. As Caroline Suransky and JC van der Merwe wrote in 2016, the universities have failed to “address their own particular apartheid legacy and become public universities for all citizens in a democratic society”. This is reflected through financial and language exclusion, unchanged institutional cultures, racist incidents, lack of transformation in academia and the Eurocentric curriculum. In 2015, black students began resisting epistemic violence and racism that obliterate the linkages they may have with the prescribed texts and propagated narratives on one side, and their lived experiences, history, needs, dreams and aspirations on the other side. The epistemic violence
stems from the fact that the “colonial model of academic organisation of the university, based on Western disciplinary knowledge, was entrenched during [colonialism and] apartheid and has not been redressed in the post-apartheid [era] in any serious way”.

Click this [Link](#) for more details

12. Modern Ghana

**Ashesi University Gets Presidential Charter (Ghana)**

President Nana Akufo-Addo has granted a Presidential Charter to Ashesi University College, making it an independent degree-granting institution. The Charter will be formally presented at Ashesi’s 2018 Graduation Ceremony.

A letter signed by the Minister of State for Tertiary Education, Prof Kwesi Yankah, said the Charter was granted after a thorough review of the University’s facilities and qualifications by the National Accreditation Board. “After a rigorous review of the university’s teaching and learning infrastructure, curriculum, finances, staff qualifications and governance, the National Accreditation Board presented a report to the Ministry of Education endorsing Ashesi’s readiness for independence from the University of Cape Coast, with which it has been affiliated,” the letter read. Ashesi submitted its application for Presidential Charter in January of 2016, following the establishment of its engineering programme. The Presidential Charter is recognition of the University's quality, strength, and impact on higher education in Ghana and beyond. Ashesi is the youngest private university in Ghana's history to receive the Charter.

Click this [Link](#) for more details

13. University World News

**A court decision with consequences for languages in Higher Education (South Africa)**

The 26 April decision of the Gauteng High Court in Pretoria upholding English-only courses at the University of South Africa (UNISA) is yet another sign that Afrikaans is losing its status in post-apartheid South Africa. It remains to be seen whether the court’s multilingual turn and conciliatory tone will influence university policies and future court decisions on language rights. Language has long been contested terrain in South Africa. In recent years, some of the fiercest battles have been fought in universities over attempts to eliminate Afrikaans instruction in favour of an English-only programme.

The rights group, AfriForum, has repeatedly charged that these policies violate the South African Constitution. The group met a major defeat in December 2017 in a Constitutional Court ruling supporting the decision of the University of the Free State (UFS) to provide all instruction in English. Significant programmatic differences left open the possibility of a different judicial outcome in the case against UNISA. The Pretoria court, however, thought otherwise, but under an unexpected line of reasoning with potential policy implications. A unique parallel programme: UNISA is a ‘distance learning institution’. Students from all over South Africa and beyond take courses online. Responding to decreasing student demand, beginning in 2010, the university incrementally limited the number of courses in Afrikaans until it totally eliminated them in 2016.

Click this [Link](#) for more details
14. Standard Media

**Five reasons we urgently need to redeem higher education (East Africa)**

The just concluded Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (Codesria) Higher Education institute in Makerere University (Uganda) could not have come at a better time. Convened by Prof Ibrahim Oanda -- a specialist of higher education and an ex-Kenyatta University don and now the current research and grants Director at Codesria -- and directed by Prof Michael Faborode -- a celebrated former Vice Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University (Ife) in Nigeria -- the two-week event provided congenial settings for discussion on the challenges faced by Sub-Saharan universities. The event deliberately brought together scholars from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and South-Africa. The Makerere setting was perfect in every way. It is here that the strong neo-liberal push by the World Bank drew impetus, a move which popularised financing of higher education where private students gain admission in public universities. This model would be hailed as the best practice for the region. And just as Makerere played the leading role in the formation of East Africa’s academic and political elite in the 60s, it also played the vanguard role in commercialisation and massification of higher education in East Africa. Further, it was also at Makerere where notable scholar Mahmood Mamdani would pen his landmark book titled ‘Scholars in the Marketplace’, a meticulously written book detailing the extremes of the neo-liberal reforms. Now directing the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR), Mamdani is charged with reforming a unit from heavy consulting and monetised ‘research’ to basic research and PhD training. The major drawback of the neoliberal reforms particularly in Kenya was that it narcotised the academe to monetised teaching, and the current shocks in the sector are but the withdrawal symptoms of this artificial high.

Click this [Link](#) for more details

15. Daily Monitor

**Policies on retakes crippling students’ academic progress (Uganda)**

It is important for students who are joining university to acquaint themselves with university policies such as how to go about failing a course unit in order to avoid situations that may conflict with their studies. For some students, policies on re-sitting a failed exam have hindered their progress and hurt their parents’ pockets. Esther Nyaduru, a Makerere University alumni, says she thought at university everybody passed until a retake gave her a rude awakening in her first year. “When the results were out, my friend led me to the notice board where a list of students who had been advised to stay put in first year had been pinned. I happened to be among them because of attaining a (Cumulative Grade Point Average) CGPA below 2.0,” says Nyanduru. “Fortunately, marks of three of my exams had been missing. I followed up and my points were raised and thus I continued to year two,” she adds. According to William Tayebwa, head of Journalism department at Makerere University, incidences of re-sitting exams happen when a student fails to get a CGPA 2.0 which he says is realistic because if such a student continues to the next year, they are most likely to get very poor results at the end of their study. “Aside from that, continuing students can re-sit the exam at Shs20,000 and in

Click this [Link](#) for more details
16. University World News

Creating the conditions for student success (South Africa)

The publication comprises a series of chapters, focusing initially on a battery of student engagement surveys developed at the University of the Free State in collaboration with international partners. Various publications have emerged from the engagement research but this is the first collection of the comprehensive survey framework. Chapters are written by a range of national and international authors, the latter including Kuh, Torres and Kinzie. The preface states that the purpose of the publication is to give a South African perspective and ‘contextualised measures’ (xiii) as part of a global movement on student engagement. Using the evidence produced by the surveys, universities can ‘create conditions that impact student development and student success’ (xiv). The approach is thus evidence-based and produces actionable data. The best known survey is the South African Survey of Student Engagement (SASSE) as it has been implemented for a number of years and most South African universities participate in it. The companion Lecturer Survey of Student Engagement (LSSE) is also longstanding.

Click this [Link](#) for more details.

17. Daily Monitor

Why graduates should take up fellowship programmes (Uganda)

Young African professionals often find themselves at crossroads, unsure of which direction to take in their career or if it is time to make a career change. These youths, who are trying to set their mark on the continent are always in need of advice from their seniors about how to navigate the professional world and make an impact in their society. However, the majority of professionals being churned out of universities do not know how, or are not humble enough to seek out a mentor. The problem stems partly from the fact that a mentee has to work very hard at what they do to be able to stand out from the pack and catch the eye—and interest —of the mentor. Recently, Léo Africa Institute held a dinner to honour the fellows of 2018 Young & Emerging Leaders Project (YELP). The fellowship aims to train and orient values of self-reliance and dignity among young and emerging leaders in the East African countries of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. The initiative is grounded in the idea that the dignity of Africa is a key moral value that can guide leadership action to cause socioeconomic transformation on the continent.

Click this [Link](#) for more details.

Note to University Public Relations Officers:

To share news/events about your Universities, contact Ms Maureen Agena, Program Officer - Communications, Marketing & Advocacy, below.

Name: Maureen Agena
Corporate Communication & Advocacy Officer

Email: communications@ruforum.org

Note to University Public Relations Officers: